

Rogers-Hoopers House (Mary Rogers House)
1121 Fernhill Road, approximately 1.5 miles
east of West Chester
West Chester Vicinity (West Goshen Township)
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1212

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-1212

ROGERS-HOOPES HOUSE
(Mary Rogers House)

Location: 1121 Fernhill Road (County Road #15099, west of West Chester Bypass), West Chester Vicinity (West Goshen Township), Chester County, Pennsylvania (Reference: Map of Chester County [by County Commissioners] 1956).

Present Owner: W.C. Bennett, 1121 Fernhill Road, West Chester, Pa.

Brief Statement of Significance: The original 1806 section of this house has some of the finest exterior and interior woodwork to be found in Chester County.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Mary Rogers 1806; Charles Rogers 1806-1812; Joseph Miller 1812-1814; Benjamin Hoopes and sons Daniel and Abiah Taylor Hoopes and their estates 1814-1907; Philip M. Sharples 1907-1937; Corn Exchange National Bank 1937-1939; Grocery Products Mfg. Co. 1939-1941; W.C. Bennett 1941 to date.
2. Date of erection: Date stone in south wall - 1806.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers etc.: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: None known. The east half of the house is older, the west end was probably added ca. 1815. The front is of dressed stone and the sides of rough field stone.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Two rooms to the west were added ca. 1815. First floor fireplaces have all been replaced except one in the southeast room. The others were removed while the house was unoccupied for some years.
6. Important old views and reference:

Views: None known.

References: Sources of information to be found in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa., under heading: West Goshen Township - Lands.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

William Rogers, the husband of Mary Rogers, whose initials are found on the 1806 date stone, died that year, probably before the stone work had advanced that far on the south wall. It was in possession of the Hoopes family for almost 100 years. The woodwork of the original 1806 section is among the finest to be found in the county.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: None known.

D. Supplemental Material:

1. "Chester & Delaware Federalist", West Chester, Pa., November 27, 1811:

"WILL BE SOLD,"
"At Public Sale,"

"On Saturday the 7th of December, 1811, at 2 o'clock, on the Premises, a first rate Plantation - Situate in Goshen township, Chester county, one and a half miles from Westchester, late the property of William Rogers, deceased; containing 205 acres in a square body - about 40 of which is good woodland, the remainder in a high state of cultivation, and well watered, Chester creek and other streams running thro the premises. The buildings consist of a new two story dwelling, and kitchen, all built of stone - the new house elegantly finished - a stone barn, waggon-house and stables - spring house, smoke house, &c.;- Apple and Peach orchards, and other fruit trees, this plantation is under good fence and every way in good repair, and worthy the attention of any person wanting a good farm.

"The property will be sold clear of incumbrance and possession given on the first of April next. Terms made known on the day of sale, by

JOHN ROGERS.
Administrator.

"N.B. Any person wishing to view said place, will be shown it on the Morning previous to sale."

Prepared by Bart Anderson - August 1958
Curator, Chester County Historical Society

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: In about 1815 a wing was added to the west of the original house, making it at present a center hall type. In addition, all fireplaces, with the exception of one, have either been replaced or removed.
2. Condition of Fabric: Excellent.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: 1807 section, 37'-2" (three-bay front) x 31'-10"; 1815 west section, 17'-11" (two-bay front); two-and-a-half stories.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Stone - dressed stone in south front, field stone on sides.
4. Chimneys: Original.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: All seem original.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Windows all seem original; shutters are probably replacements.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Medium pitch gable roof.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Original.
 - c. Dormers: South front has three dormers.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor Plans: With the west addition, the house is a center hall type, with two rooms on either side of the wide hall.
2. Stairways: Very fine original stairway.
3. Flooring: Original.

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4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster. Interior cornices are original. Panelled room in northeast section, first floor, is not original; it is old, but was brought in from another house.
5. Doorways and doors: All seem original.
6. Trim: Nearly all original.
7. Hardware: Nearly all original.
8. Lighting: Modern electricity.
9. Heating: Fireplace openings remain except those in the northwest rooms, first and second floors, which have been removed.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: House faces south, and is beautifully situated on slight slope with meadows and lakes about it.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: No old ones left.
4. Walks, driveways etc.: None.
5. Landscaping, gardens etc.: Very well landscaped.

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